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# **Scope**

This plan will outline basic operational procedures to be followed when responding to and operating at incidents involving natural gas. The strategic objectives of the fire department at these incidents are to ensure the safety of citizens and public safety personnel, and to minimize damage to property. The following guidelines are to be considered by the incident commander (IC) in determining the tactics to be employed at each particular incident.

## **Natural Gas Odor (Outside of Structure)**

- Non-Emergency Response per Tactical Plan 213.02
- Obtain wind direction and velocity from dispatch
- Obtain as much information from caller as possible
- Use crews to survey area
- If a source is found follow plan for outside gas leak

## **Natural Gas Odor (Inside of Structure)**

- Emergency Response per Tactical Plan 213.02
- On arrival note if there is an odor of natural gas either outside of the structure or at the entrance to the structure
- Observe for possible outside sources of the odor (nearby excavations sites etc.)
- If so, turn off the gas supply to the structure and follow plan for an inside gas leak
- If no odor is detected, survey structure using Sensit Meter
- Note that natural gas is lighter than air, if unable to survey the upper level of a room, a negative LEL reading does not rule out the presence of natural gas
- If all LEL readings are negative notify caller of findings

# Natural Gas Leak (Outside of Structure)

- Non-Emergency Response per Tactical Plan 213.02
- Obtain wind direction and velocity from dispatch
- All personnel, POV and Apparatus should be staged back upwind initially 330 ft
- Establish a staging area confirming it is safe by taking LEL measurements with Sensit Meter
- Establish and secure a hot zone perimeter (control/eliminate ignition sources)
- Continuously monitor to assure the safe boundaries of the Hot Zone
- Notify Consumers Energy
- Consider notification of the OCHMRT for air monitoring
- Evaluate for possible underground migration

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# **Natural Gas Leak (Inside of Structure)**

- Emergency Response per Tactical Plan 213.02
- On arrival note if there is an odor of natural gas either outside of the structure or at the entrance to the structure
- Contact caller as soon as possible
- Account for occupants
- Shut of gas supply to the appliance or the structure if there is any indication of a leak inside
- Control/eliminate ignition sources
- Notify Consumers Energy
- Attempt ventilating the structure if it is safe to do so
- Wear full PPE

#### **LEL Guidelines**

- A reading of 5% LEL or greater is the maximum turn-back point for individuals not in PPE
- A reading of 10% LEL or greater is the maximum turn-back point for individuals in full PPE